

County of San Diego Board of Supervisors

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County of San Diego Probation Department

"Building a Safer Community since 1907"

Programs and Institutions

The San Diego County Probation Department acts as an arm of the courts to provide investigative and supervisory services to offenders and those placed on probation. The Department has a two-fold objective: provide protection for the community and rehabilitate the offender. It accomplishes this through a wide variety of outreach programs that have been developed to strengthen families; suppress gang activity and substance abuse; and create skill-building programs to get offenders back on the right track and prevent further criminal activities.

The Probation Department supervises offenders at three basic levels, depending on the risk to the community. Intensive supervision entails a higher level of supervision for offenders whose risk to the community is seen as high. Various units are designed to target these special populations, such as sex offenders, gang members, pregnant substance abusers, or violent offenders. Supervision officers conduct random home visits and intrusive searches in addition to their regular supervision duties.

Those offenders who are deemed to be a moderate risk to the community are placed in large groups and supervised by smaller teams of probation officers and probation aides. This level of supervision is less intensive, with most offenders being monitored through scheduled appointments. At the lowest level of supervision, an administrative team is responsible for monitoring those offenders who pose a small risk to the community or those who have already completed their requirements for the court and whose case is close to expiring.

Approximately 1,000 sworn and 350 support staff is divided into five sections: Administration, Support Staff, Juvenile Field Services, Institutions, and Adult Field Services.

They supervise 20,000 adults and 3,500 juveniles in the community and an additional 700 juveniles in 24-hour facilities. Each year approximately 3,200 juveniles are booked into one of two detention facilities for new offenses and more than 10,000 pre-sentence investigations are performed for adult courts.



Contact Information

Probation Administration Center (858) 514-3148
Juvenile Probation Center (858) 694-4600
North County Office (760) 806-2313
East County Regional Center (619) 441-4455
South County Office (619) 498-2188
Starling Office (858) 492-2300
Ohio Street Office (619) 574-5500
Hall of Justice (619) 515-8202
Work Project (858) 694-8821

Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (858) 694-4500
East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (619) 671-4400
Girls Rehabilitation Facility (858) 694-4510
Juvenile Ranch Facility (619) 401-3500
Camp Barrett (619) 401-4900
Youth Day Center North (760) 752-1842
Youth Day Center Central (619) 236-2018
Reflections North (760) 752-1842
Reflections Central (619) 698-5457

Website: www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation



ADULT FIELD SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The primary mission of probation officers working with adults is to protect the community by providing services to the courts, defendants, and the public. The basic concept of this mission is that probationers under probation supervision will be appropriately supervised and assisted to become law-abiding individuals. The supervision may be intensive for offenders whose behavior poses a continuous threat to public safety or mid-level for those whose offenses pose less of a risk to the public. In addition to supervision services, probation officers complete mandatory pre-sentence investigations for the courts. In these reports, probation officers investigate an offender’s background, collect statements from victims and make recommendations for various sentencing alternatives. Some of the supervision services and programs provided by Adult Field Services include:

BANKS: The mid-level bank system is composed of three teams each consisting of three probation officers and two probation aides. Each team supervises approximately 1,700 felony offenders, through a series of compliance appointments that enforces the courts orders. During these compliance appointments, court ordered conditions are explained to the probationers and referrals are made to outside community services to assist the probationer, when applicable. When a defendant fails to comply with the court orders, fails to report, or is arrested on new charges, they are referred back to court for violation proceedings and possible additional consequences, such as additional custody time. Once the probationer is in compliance with their court ordered condition of probation, the case may be transferred to a lower level of supervision, known as the Administrative Bank.

In the Administrative Bank, the case is monitored for new arrests, changes in probationer status or addresses and for any new concerns brought forward by friends of family members of the defendant. One hundred and eighty days prior to the probationer’s expiration date, the case is reviewed. At that time, it is determined, based on probationer’s compliance and ability to remain law abiding, if the probationer’s case should be allowed to expire or if further action is necessary by the court.

DUI Intensive Supervision Program (DISP): DISP is an intensive supervision program that targets the high risk drunk driver and offenders whose offenses involve the use of alcohol/drugs and result in great bodily injury. With an emphasis on field work, DISP officers collaborate with DUI treatment programs and law enforcement check points to increase compliance with court ordered treatment requirements and conditions of probation as they are related to drinking and driving. DISP officers will conduct random home visits and conduct on the spot alcohol and drug testing. The focus of this program is community safety, victim reparations and offender rehabilitation.

Family Violence Project: An intensive supervision program, the Family Violence Project is an interagency collaborative unit between the County of San Diego Probation Department and the Health and Human Services Agency Children’s Services. The Family Violence Project partners probation officers with social workers who provide joint services to families who are active to both agencies.

Family Violence and Sex Offenders (FVSO) Program: The Family Violence/Sex Offender Program is an intensive field supervision unit designed to supervise family violence (e.g. domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse or stalking) and sex offenders who are on formal probation. Probation officers evaluate risk and need and provide referrals to assist the defendant to make changes through cognitive behavioral interventions. Officers provide intensive supervision, which encompasses in-office meetings, field or home visits, telephone contacts, and liaison with law enforcement that sometimes includes surveillance. The officers work closely with the courts, polygraph providers, victim advocates, and community-based treatment agencies. Officers engage in extensive and continuous specialized training, and they support, educate, and protect victims and their families.

Intake and Investigations: Probation officers help the court collect pertinent information pertaining to a convicted criminal’s behavior, history, assets, impact on victims, and mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The probation officer files a “pre-sentence report” with sentencing recommendations based on case law to assist the judge make his/her sentencing decision.

Interstate Courtesy Supervision Unit (ICSU): This unit coordinates the continuous supervision of probationers leaving and coming to San Diego County from other states or California counties. To facilitate this process, ICSU staff communicates with probationers, local probation officers, and probation officers in other jurisdictions throughout the country.

Mentally Ill Offender Program (MIO): An intensive supervision program, this program targets severely mentally ill adult probationers who require prevention/intervention services to remain out of custody and in the community. The goals of this intensive supervision program are medication maintenance, treatment for substance abuse and the promotion of the highest functioning skills possible for this population.

Parents And Their Children (PATCH): PATCH is a specialized, intensive supervision caseload that focuses on defendants assigned to the VOP unit who have children from birth to age 10 living in the home. The probation officer works with the defendant and provides referrals to necessary community agencies such as, employment, therapy, cognitive behavior programs, and anger management in order to influence change, thus minimizing the cycle of violence and protecting the children.

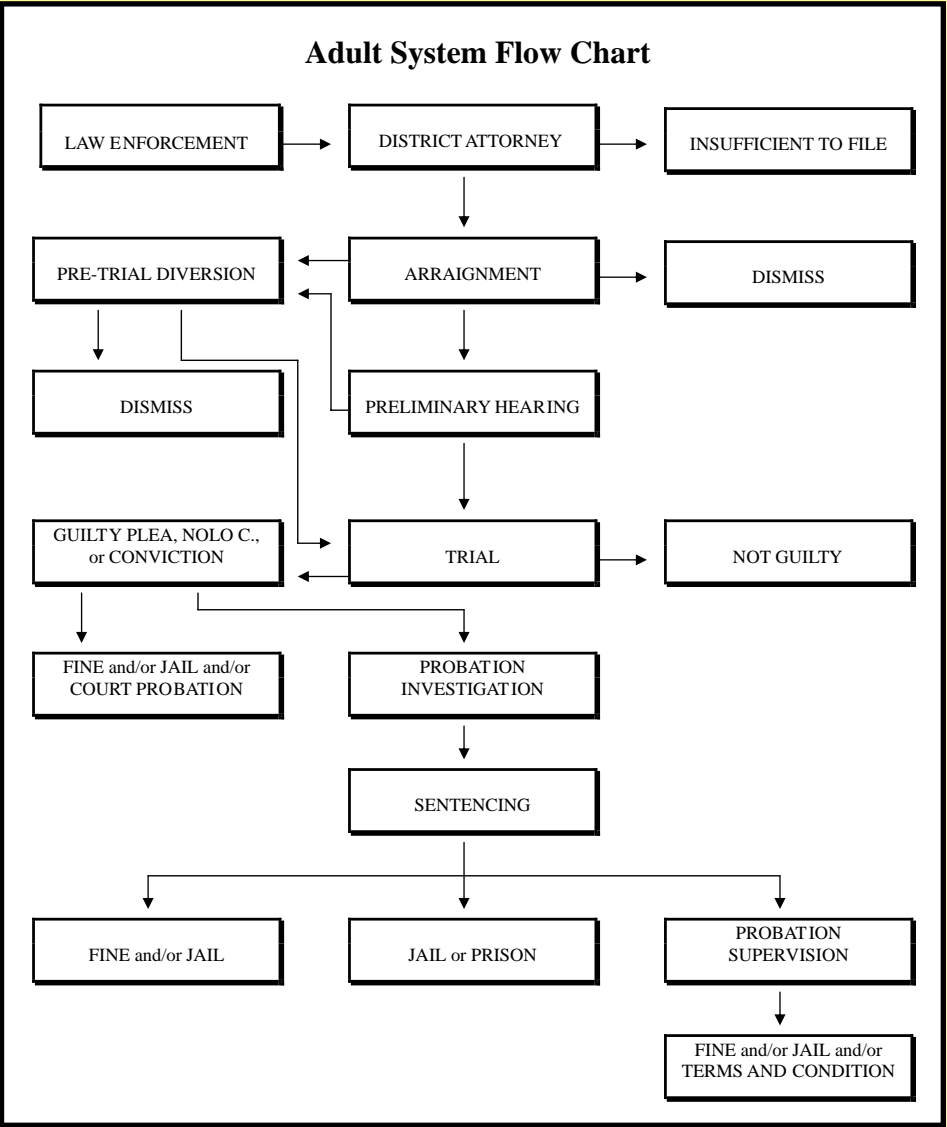
Proposition 36: Non-violent drug offenders granted probation under PC1210 are pre-screened and referred to appropriate treatment programs. Probation officers work in collaboration with treatment providers and criminal justice partners in order to monitor these defendants for compliance with court-imposed requirements, and provide the court with timely notification of all non-compliance behaviors and/or treatment failures.

Violent Offender Program: The Violent Offender Program (VOP) is an intensive supervision unit. The defendants almost always have committed an offense involving violence (assault with deadly weapon, battery with serious bodily injury, etc). Most VOP defendants have been ordered by the court to complete anger management and will also likely have a no contact order to keep them away from the victim. The VOP unit will also supervise defendants who have a history of violence, even though the latest offense may not have involved violence. Officers will also supervise defendants who have “potential violence” based on their history or on the details of the latest offense. The Probation officers meet with the defendant twice a month, in the office and once at their home or business. Many have been ordered to undergo drug/alcohol testing, and are put on a random testing program. If the defendant continues to use drugs and/or alcohol, fails to get counseling, or otherwise violates his conditions of probation, they will be re-arrested by the Probation officer and returned to court for additional sentencing and/or other sanctions.

Women And Their Children (WATCH): WATCH is a collaborative, zero-tolerance intensive supervision program in San Diego County that works with pregnant women to bring drug and alcohol-free babies into the world. Probation officers supervise all pregnant juvenile and adult offenders with a history of drug/alcohol abuse. The case will remain in the WATCH program for at least three to six months following the child’s birth with follow-up by mid-level supervision officers.

Youthful Offender Program (YOP): The Youthful Offender Program is an intensive supervision program that targets the high-risk youthful offender

18-25 years old. The focus of this program is community safety and offender rehabilitation. YOP provides a collaborative approach to supervising this transitional youth group by teaming up with community-based organizations to achieve sobriety and full-time employment/schooling while addressing other important criminogenic factors such as a criminal thinking and pro-criminal peer association. By lowering these risk factors YOP seeks to bring the youthful offender into law-abiding self sufficiency.



Probation officers performed more than 5,500 fourth waiver searches in San Diego County in 2005.

JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

These programs address community, family, and individual risk factors and enhance protective factors that will minimize the risk of delinquent behavior and entry into the juvenile justice system.

Community Assessment /Working to Insure and Nurture Girls Success (CA/WINGS): The CA/WINGS team is a community-based prevention and intervention program designed to provide services to families with school-age youth, ages six through 17, who have chronic behavior problems or other issues (i.e., chaotic home life, inadequate parental supervision) that place them at risk of entering or continuing in the Juvenile Justice system. Home-based in five locations throughout the county, mobile teams provide in-home, strength-based assessments, interventions, referrals and case management services for eligible families.

Community Response Officer Program (CROP): Probation officers are out-stationed at various law enforcement agencies throughout the county. These officers participate in truancy and warrant sweeps and work with law enforcement agencies to divert at-risk youth from the juvenile justice system.

SB 1095 Program: Known as “The Academies,” these unique schools are located at four different sites and serve youths at risk of becoming repeat offenders. Strong links are forged between education, community-based programs, businesses, and families and each offers opportunities for employment, internships and community service.

STAR/PAL: The San Diego Police Department’s Sports Training Academic and Recreation (STAR) program and the County’s Police Athletic League (PAL) merged into one major activities-oriented program to benefit the community. STAR/PAL’s focus is on providing athletic, recreational and literacy services and opportunities to youth and their families throughout the San Diego area.

Truancy Intervention Program (TIP): This program targets juveniles with school attendance problems, grades K-12, in five school districts. The Probation Department provides a school probation officer at each of the sites to assist in monitoring the juvenile’s attendance through direct contact with the juvenile and his/her family. The goals are to increase the juvenile’s school attendance and enhance academic achievement.

INTERVENTION/COURT SERVICES

These programs provide immediate, swift responses within the community for youth entering the beginning stages of the juvenile justice system.

Border Youth Project: Working with officials of the Consejo de Orientacion y Reeducacion de Menores and the Tijuana B.C. Mexico Juvenile Court, this project repatriates Mexican youths who have committed delinquent offenses in the United States. The Probation Department has a liaison officer with the consulate of Mexico, San Diego.

Intake and Investigation: This unit determines whether a case will be diverted from the juvenile justice system, handled informally, or referred to the District Attorney for filing of a petition. If the court issues a true finding, investigation probation officers will conduct a comprehensive investigation for the purposes of providing recommendations to the court for the minor’s dispositional hearing. The investigation will include circumstances regarding the offense and the minor’s delinquent and social history.

Transportation: The unit’s primary function among other items is to transport wards to and from various court ordered placements and appointments, state-to-state extraditions, and several types of medical and private appointments.

Truancy Supervision Program (TSP): This collaborative program targets habitually truant 601 wards of Juvenile Court. The unit provides intensive supervision, intervention and attendance monitoring services for Truancy Court probationers. Offenders and their families are provided a wide variety of services to reduce truancy and delinquent behavior.

SUPERVISION PROGRAMS

These programs provide juvenile offender supervision, accountability of compliance with court ordered conditions of probation, and assistance to lawful self-sufficiency.

After Care Program: This is a Probation Department program which designs individual treatment and case plans for youth returning from local camp commitments and Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs). Youth assigned to the Aftercare Program will receive intensive monitoring and services for approximately six months as they reintegrate back into the community and neighborhood environments. The goals of this program are to prevent further out-of-home placement, reduce the risk to re-offend, and to support a successful transition and completion of probation.

CHOICE Program: This program is an intensive, home-based, family-oriented program, which provides intensive supervision of Probation clients within the community. The program recruits recent college graduates who are assigned in teams of two to three youth service workers with a caseload of at-risk, delinquent youth. The teams monitor minors at home, at school and within the community a minimum of four times per week. They monitor school attendance, grades, curfew and other probation conditions. The teams work closely with the minors’ probation officers and meet daily to review the progress of their cases, to assure day-to-day follow-up and accountability.

Drug Court: This nine month program intensively supervises juvenile drug abusers who are non-violent, but have repeated failures with drug-treatment programs. Wards appear before the judge weekly and are tested for drugs regularly. There are incentives for positive behavior and a series of graduated sanctions for those who fail to comply.

Juvenile Sex Offender Management (JSOM): This unit provides intensive monitoring for minors on probation in the community with a history of sexually abusive behavior. The primary goals of JSOM are to provide safety to the victim(s), potential victims, and the community. Additional goals include providing for offender accountability, promoting offender rehabilitation, and reducing the risk to re-offend. These goals are pursued through a team approach, involving close collaboration between probation officers, therapists, law enforcement, victim advocates, and other related agencies.

Parenting Mentoring Substance Abuse (PMSA): The Parenting, Mentoring and Substance Abuse (PMSA) program is a community-based intervention and referral program aligned with the Probation Department’s Juvenile Drug Court. The three primary components of the program include parenting classes, mentoring and substance abuse services targeting wards of the Juvenile Court and their parents. The purpose of the program is to ensure that wards do not escalate to greater levels of involvement in the juvenile justice system. This program is available to all wards of the Court.

Placement Unit: The Placement Unit incorporates the screening, assessment and placement of all wards ordered into a Residential Treatment Facility (RTF), foster home or relative/non-relative extended family member home. This also includes the monthly monitoring of wards in placement by officers who make on-site visits to the facilities and homes. Officers monitor the minor’s progress, provide progress reports to the court, and ensure the minor’s safety while in placement.

Supervision Unit: Probation officers develop strength-based case plans for each juvenile designed to provide for the safety and protection of the community, hold minors accountable for their behavior, provide care, treatment, and guidance as appropriate to the circumstances, and assist in the minor’s rehabilitation. Minors are contacted in field offices and in the community. Officers maintain and document regular contacts with parents, therapists, school personnel, and law enforcement officers.

TREATMENT PROGRAMS

These programs include community based treatment, structured day treatment centers and residential group home placement for wards of the court.

Breaking Cycles: This is a family-centered program with a team approach to juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention. This collaboration includes the Health and Human Services Agency, mental health agencies, educational systems, community based organizations, families and community members. The team utilizes the family’s strengths to develop and implement a plan, which focuses on delinquency intervention by employing a comprehensive and collaborative system of graduated sanctions and treatment to break the cycle of delinquency and substance abuse.

Reflections: Reflections is a collaboration between, Probation, Children’s Mental Health Services, the County Office of Education and community based organizations. It serves as an alternative to out-of-home residential treatment facility placement. The target population for this program is adolescent offenders who have an Axis I mental health diagnosis and are in need of a structured day-treatment program with intensive counseling, education, mental health, and family therapy as well as other intervention where needed. Reflections sites are located in North County and central San Diego.

Teen Women And Their Children (WATCH): Teen WATCH is a program for teens who are substance abusers and pregnant. The objective is for the young women to deliver drug-free babies. This is a collaboration between Probation, schools, Social Services and community agencies to provide education, counseling, substance abuse treatment and parenting education. Probation also works with other law enforcement agencies to enforce a zero-tolerance policy, which culminates in an arrest and detention should the minor test positive for intoxicating substances. Result: More than 99 percent of the babies are born without toxic substances in their systems.

Youth Day Center (YDC): This is a Breaking Cycles program, which serves as a transition from or alternative to the Juvenile Ranch Facility, Girls Rehabilitation Facility or Juvenile Hall. The program ties together previous academic, vocational and self-improvement efforts at the Juvenile Ranch Facility, the Girls Rehabilitation Facility or in the community. Probation, Court schools, community based organizations, volunteers, and others work in teams to help youth transition back to their homes in a pro-social capacity. Once wards graduate from YDC, community-based collaborative agencies continue to work with the youth and their families offering strength-based support. YDC’s are located in North County and central San Diego.

SPECIALTY UNITS (Includes Adult and Juvenile Probationers)

Armed officers make frequent home visits and closely monitor probationer activities.

CATCH ID Team: The goals of the armed CATCH Team is to conduct fourth waiver searches on probationers with a search condition who have histories of identity theft, forgery, or grand theft through the use of a computer. The Probation Department works in collaboration with the District Attorney, Department of Justice, San Diego Police Department, Carlsbad Police Department, and the United States Postal Inspector. If new crimes relating to identity theft are discovered, they are investigated and prosecuted.

Electronic Surveillance Program (ESP): Through this program offenders may be placed back into their homes instead of jail. An electronic detection device monitors offender’s movements and probation officers frequently stop by for visits. Offenders may go to work but have restrictions on most other activities.

Field Action Specialty Team (FAST): Specialty field supervision officers provide intrusive activities for caseloads. Armed officers conduct unannounced field visits, fourth waiver searches, and arrests of dangerous high-risk offenders. The unit also serves as a liaison between the Probation Department and law enforcement agencies by coordinating special joint operations and community outreach.

Gang Suppression Unit (GSU): Goals of the armed Gang Suppression Unit are to assist the offender to successfully complete probation, to recommend immediate prosecution of probation violators, provide education and information to the public, and develop timely and accurate criminal intelligence. GSU officers assist probationers by assessing their risk and needs and by referring individuals to appropriate community based organizations for counseling, training, and/or support. The unit also provides gang awareness presentations to schools, community based organizations, and other law enforcement agencies.

Home Supervision (Juvenile Only): Through this program offenders may be placed back into their homes and are frequently supervised by a probation officer instead of being detained in Juvenile Hall. There are restrictions on their movements and activities and they can be monitored by an electronic surveillance detection device. Most of the offenders placed on home supervision are juveniles with minor offenses and it helps keep detention facilities from being overcrowded.

Jurisdictions Unified for Drug and Gang Enforcement (JUDGE): This is a multi-jurisdictional task force comprised of armed probation officers working in partnership with officers from San Diego Police; Chula Vista Police; National City Police; State Parole; San Diego County Sheriff; Escondido Police; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Oceanside Police; and the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. This unit targets drug and gang involved probationers, parolees, and other criminals who have been convicted of serious crimes. This task force is operated under a grant that is administered by the San Diego County District Attorney.

Narcotic Task Force (N.T.F.): Narcotic officers from seventeen different local, state, and federal agencies currently make up the Narcotic Task Force. The mission of the Narcotic Task Force is to dismantle the most significant mid to high-level narcotic trafficking organizations’ principle members involved in narcotics trafficking, manufacturing, growing, and money laundering in Southern California.

Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT): RATT is a multi-agency law enforcement team with the task of increasing the apprehension and prosecution of professional auto and cargo thieves using regional proactive methods. The armed task force uses each agency’s resources to identify, target, apprehend, and prosecute organized criminal groups involved in these activities.

Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Force (SAFE): The Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Force is a multi-agency law enforcement team headed by the California Department of Justice. The mission of the SAFE Task Force is to significantly diminish sex crimes and sexually motivated crimes in the County of San Diego through monitoring of sex offenders; when appropriate, notifying the public of sex offenders posing a risk in their community; training San Diego County law enforcement agencies on sex offender registration processes and penal code section 290 “Public Notification” procedures; and compliance checks of registered sex offenders. The goal is the prevention of sex crimes and to apprehend those who commit sex offenses, thereby increasing public safety.

San Diego Regional Gang Task Force (SDRGTF), North County Regional Gang Task Force (NCRGTF), East County Gang Task Force (ECGTF): The mission of these multi-agency task forces are to identify and target for prosecution criminal street gangs, their members, and criminal associates, who derive wealth and power from committing violent and/or major crimes of robbery and theft. Drug trafficking and other complex or major crimes are investigated by participating agencies.

San Diego Regional Fugitive Task Force (SDRFTF): The U.S. Marshal’s office leads this group of over 40 investigators from 12 different agencies, including the Probation Department, whose sole purpose is to work together to hunt down and arrest wanted persons.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

These institutions provide safe and secure housing, both maximum and minimum security, on a 24-hour basis for juvenile offenders alleged to have committed a crime or waiting for placement.

Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (KMJDF): KMJDF, formerly known as Juvenile Hall, is a locked maximum security detention facility for male and female juveniles awaiting court hearings or placement. Detainees may be held up to a month or more, depending on the length of the court proceedings. At Juvenile Hall, minors attend school, receive counseling and are involved in exercise and structured activities.

East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (EMJDF): EMJDF is a state of the art maximum security facility that looks like a school campus but operates as a locked detention facility for male juveniles awaiting court hearings or placement. Detainees may be held up to a month or more, depending on the length of the court proceedings. Minors attend school five days a week, receive counseling, and are involved in exercise activities.

Juvenile Ranch Facility (JRF) {Rancho del Campo/Rayo}: This minimum-security facility can accommodate minors from 30 to 240 days, with the average stay approximately 100 days. JRF offers a school program and interactive educational programs such as literacy, anger management, substance abuse, and behavior change focused on pro-social values and taking responsibility for their own actions. In addition, wards may participate in counseling, relapse and substance abuse treatments through a contract with Phoenix House, conflict resolution classes and work crews, both in and out of camp.

Girls Rehabilitation Facility (GRF): This minimum-security facility holds female wards from 90 to 365 days, with the average stay about 110 days. GRF offers a school program and interactive educational programs such as literacy, anger management, substance abuse and behavior change focused on pro-social values and taking responsibility for one’s own actions. Wards also participate in counseling, relapse and substance abuse treatments, and conflict resolution classes.

Camp Barrett: This is a rural residential camp for older more criminally sophisticated male offenders, 16-18 years old, who may otherwise face lengthy, out-of-home placement in facilities out of the county or state. Sentences vary from 6 months to one year and youth are eligible to receive administrative sentence reductions for good behavior and program performance. The camp operates on a model, which promotes advancement toward a law-abiding lifestyle and independence in adulthood and promotes a “positive peer culture.” Upon release, each receives intensive supervision in the community to facilitate re-integration.

Work Furlough Oversight Unit: A sentencing option for the courts, adult offenders may be placed in the Work Furlough program as an alternative to a 24-hour detention facility. Probation officers screen and accept qualified candidates who are not a threat to

society and work a minimum of 35 hours per week. Inmates live at the minimum-security facility seven days a week, are assigned on-site chores, submit to monthly drug tests, and pay \$38 per day for room, board, and meals. Inmates may leave the facility only to go to work and may never go home. They must submit a daily itinerary and caseworkers monitor their movements daily. Inmates may receive visitors for a short time on weekends.

Work Project: The Work Project program is an alternative sentencing option for both adult and juvenile offenders. Probationers are referred to this program by the court to complete public service work, often instead of paying fines or serving time in custody. The Probation Department contracts with various public agencies to supply 8-12 person crews to assist with litter cleanup, weed abatement, firebreaks, culvert cleanout, and numerous other tasks to preserve and enhance the environment. The enrollment fees paid by program participants and the revenues received for the use of the crews are designed to recover the cost of maintaining the program so that it is not dependent on taxpayer dollars.



Boys receive rehabilitative programs at the Juvenile Ranch Facility in Campo for up to 240 days

